

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SOPN

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING MAY 24: CHILE - AP ON STUDY
OF CHILEAN ALTERNATIVES; INTERNAL CONFLICT ON LOANS;
CHILE-ECLA SIT-IN.

1. FOLLOWING WAS PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS
BRIEFING MAY 24. QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.

Q: DID THE NSC ASK THE CIA TO PREPARE A STUDY ON
ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A: NO SUCH STUDY IS UNDERWAY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT KNOW WHETHER SUCH A STUDY HAS
BEEN ORDERED FOR THE FUTURE?

A: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT INVOLVED IN
PLANNING OR PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR CHILE OR
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FOR ANY PLACE ELSE.

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT MET OR DOES IT PLAN TO HOLD A
MEETING TO RESOLVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTERNAL CONFLICT
OVER THE A.I.D.LOANS FOR CHILE?

A: A MEETING WAS HELD THIS MORNING AT WHICH THE STATUS

OF TWO SMALL AGRICULTURAL LOANS PROPOSED FOR CHILE WAS DISCUSSED. THE PROPOSED LOANS ARE UNDER THE FY 77 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CHILE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, AND THEY ARE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT THE NEEDY PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

Q: WAS ANY DECISION REACHED AT THE MEETING?

A: NO. I UNDERSTAND THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AND DECISION WAS DEFERRED.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, A.I.D. AND THE DOD FAVORED APPROVAL OF THE LOANS WHILE OTHER DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED?

A: YOU KNOW THAT FROM THIS PODIUM I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE VIEWS OF ANY OFFICIALS OR AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF A DECISION BY THIS GOVERNMENT AS THAT DECISION IS IN THE MAKING.

Q: WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING ON THESE LOANS THAT WAS CALLED THIS MORNING? WAS IT CHRISTOPHER?

A: YES. IT WAS AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING AND HE CHAIRED IT.

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Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE ECLA SIT-IN IN SANTIAGO?

A: WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAVE REACHED AN ACCOMMODATION ON THIS MATTER.

Q: WAS THE U.S. INVOLVED AND CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE CHILEANS HAVE AGREED TO ACCOUNT ONLY FOR THE RELATIVES OF THE 26 STRIKERS?

A: THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND THOSE ARE THE AGENCIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT. AS WE HAVE SAID, OUR EMBASSY MONITORED THE SITUATION CLOSELY, AND WE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE AS IT DEVELOPED.

2. NSC PRESS GUIDANCE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAS NEVER

MADE SUCH A REQUEST, AND THE STORY IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, AND HAS NO BASIS IN FACT. NO SUCH STUDY HAS BEEN CONTEMPLATED OR REQUESTED FROM THE CIA. END QUOTE

3. QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT THERE ARE DIFFERING OPINIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT ON AID DELIVERANCE TO CHILE BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS OPINIONS THAT MAY PREVAIL ON ANY NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THAT ONE. THAT IS, OF COURSE, A MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THERE IS NO DECISION
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ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: ARE YOU AWARE OF A STUDY BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER ALTERNATE GOVERNMENTS IN CHILE?

A: YES, I RAISED THAT QUESTION. THERE IS A CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT ANY SUCH STUDY HAS BEEN REQUESTED.

Q: I TAKE IT THAT BRADY TYSON IS NOT TAKING PART IN ANY SUCH STUDY.

A: I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT A NUMBER OF US HERE HAVE BEEN READING THE NEWSPAPERS LATELY AND WITH GREAT INTEREST. YOU ARE DISCOVERING ALL KINDS OF THINGS WHICH WE DON'T SEEM TO FIND OUT ANY OTHER WAY.

Q: ARE YOU DENYING THAT THE STUDY EXISTS?

A: I DENY IT. I DENY IT HAS BEEN ASKED FOR. I DENY THAT IT EXISTS. I DENY THAT IT IS ENVISIONED.

Q: WOULD YOU SAY IT IS GROUNDLESS?

A: I ALREADY SAID GROUNDLESS.

Q: ARE YOU SPEAKING FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT NOW?

A: EXCUSE ME.

Q: ARE YOU SPEAKING FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT?

A: I AM SPEAKING IN THIS CASE FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY
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COUNCIL, WHICH IS ALLEGED TO HAVE REQUESTED IT. AND I AM SPEAKING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q: NOT THE CIA.

A: I KNOW NOTHING--. OF COURSE, WE DON'T COMMENT ON WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE GOING ON ACROSS THAT BUILDING. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I AM RESPONDING TO A NEWS STORY, WHICH IS CLEARLY THE BASIS FOR THESE QUESTIONS.

Q: WELL, THE NEWS STORY SAID THAT THE NSC HAD ASKED THE CIA TO PUT THIS STORY TOGETHER. ARE YOU DENYING THAT THE NSC HAS ASKED FOR ANYTHING OF THAT SORT, RIGHT?

A: YES, CATEGORICALLY.

Q: I DON'T LIKE TO BEAT A NON-EXISTENT HORSE, BUT PARSONS IS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THIS. HAVE YOU CHECKED WITH HIM?

A: PASTOR, BOB PASTOR.

Q: BOB PASTOR.

A: YES. DID I PERSONALLY CHECK?

Q: YES.

A: HE HAS BEEN CHECKED WITH PERSONALLY.

Q: IS HE STILL IN HIS JOB?

Q: TOUCHE ON THAT ONE. CHRISTOPHER

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